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Proposed programme of work in crime prevention and criminal justice for the biennium 2000-2001

Note by the Secretary-General

Introduction

1. The present note contains a summary of the proposed programme of work in crime prevention and criminal justice for the biennium 2000-2001 for consideration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session. The proposed programme of work will be reflected in section 14, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. It will become final upon approval by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

Overview

2. The proposed programme of work is derived from programme 12, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.[1] The programme was designated a priority area of work by the General Assembly in its resolutions 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and 53/207 of 18 December 1998 on programme planning.

3. The overall objectives of the programme are:

   (a) To promote international cooperation and the fundamental principles of the rule of law;

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(b) To improve the capacity of States to prevent crime, in particular organized crime, corruption, trafficking in human beings and terrorism;

(c) To provide effective substantive support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

(d) To mobilize increased resources to provide technical cooperation;

(e) To ensure improved coordination within the United Nations system and with other relevant international organizations.

4. It is expected that the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime will be finalized in the year 2000. Through the convention, Member States will commit themselves to develop effective national legislation to combat criminal organizations and their activities. Additional instruments thereto that may also be finalized will address the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea, and trafficking in women and children. Should the General Assembly decide to develop additional protocols to the convention or other international convention(s), the Centre will support that process.

5. The Centre aims to enhance the capacity of Governments to reform legislation and to strengthen their criminal justice systems, to establish institutions and mechanisms for the detection, investigation, prosecution and judgement of various types of crime and to upgrade the skills of crime prevention and criminal justice personnel.

6. The Centre provides substantive servicing to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and will also service the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be convened in Vienna in 2000.

A. Policy-making organs

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

7. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is a functional body of the Economic and Social Council. It is the principal policy-making body of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice and has a membership of 40 Member States. In accordance with the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the Commission fulfils the functions of preparatory body for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. In accordance with Assembly resolution 51/120 of 12 December 1996, the Commission has been mandated to carry out work related to the development of an international convention against organized transnational crime.

8. The Commission holds annual sessions of eight working days in Vienna. During each session, the Commission establishes in-session working groups to consider specific agenda items in detail. In addition, by its resolution 5/3, entitled "Strategic management by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme", the Commission requested its bureau to meet during the periods between sessions and to submit a report on its inter-sessional work; decided that the bureau should endeavour to hold inter-sessional meetings with the bureau of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in order to improve coordination of the work of the two Commissions; also decided to establish an informal consultative group on resource mobilization, which was to meet inter-sessionally and report annually on activities undertaken and results achieved; and established an informal working group to undertake a regular review of programme mandates and resources, with a view to establishing a more realistic relationship between them, and to report to the Commission thereon.

Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

9. The quinquennial congresses are a parallel activity undertaken by the Centre for International Crime Prevention. The Tenth Congress will be held in Vienna in the year 2000. The Centre began preparatory work during the biennium 1998-1999 and will be responsible for the organization and servicing of the Congress, which will bring together high-level government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations, experts and journalists to discuss the theme "Crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century". The Congress will adopt a declaration setting out viable, action-oriented measures to address the following topics: (a) promoting the rule of law and strengthening the criminal justice system; (b) international cooperation in combating transnational crime: new challenges in the twenty-first century; (c) effective crime prevention: keeping pace with new developments; and (d) offenders and victims: accountability and fairness in the justice process.

B. Programme of work

10. The main activities to be carried out during the biennium will include:

(a) Consultations and negotiations in connection with the finalization of the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and additional international legal instruments thereto addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea; and, subject to a decision by the General Assembly, development of additional protocols to the convention and of other international convention(s);

(b) Provision to Member States, upon request, of advisory services and technical assistance designed to meet their most pressing needs;

(c) Monitoring the use and application of existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and promoting reliance on the United Nations model treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters;

(d) Collection and analysis of data and information on crime trends and criminal justice operations;

(e) Development of research and technical cooperation initiatives to help prevent international terrorism;

(f) The substantive servicing of the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

11. Attention will be focused, in particular, on issues such as transnational organized crime, terrorism and economic crime, with particular emphasis on corruption, all of which are of primary concern to the international community.

12. Pursuant to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 6/1 on strategic management, the number of reports to be submitted to the Commission will be reduced from 35 to 15.

Expected accomplishments

13. The Centre for International Crime Prevention expects to accomplish the following by the end of the biennium:

(a) Finalization of the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and development of additional international legal instruments thereto addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea;

(b) Subject to a decision by the General Assembly, initiating the development of additional protocols to the convention and of other international convention(s);

(c) Increased use and application by Member States of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and of the United Nations model treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters;

(d) Enhanced capacity of Member States to develop or upgrade their legislation, policies and strategies, as well as the skills of their criminal justice personnel, to detect, prosecute and prevent various forms of transnational crime;

(e) More effective international cooperation to prevent and control various forms of transnational crime and improved cooperation with other United Nations bodies and entities and with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(f) Provision of valid and reliable data and information, statistics, findings and results of action-oriented research, including high-quality analysis of and updated information on structures and activities of major and emerging transnational organized criminal groups, on illicit markets and on trends and patterns in the trafficking of human beings and in corruption;

(g) Increased adherence to and implementation by Member States of the existing international conventions on terrorism and improved national capacities and international cooperation to address and prevent terrorism;

(h) Timely discharge of reporting obligations to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

Outputs

14 During the biennium the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies*

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings

a. General Assembly (Third Committee). Sixteen meetings;

b. Economic and Social Council. Twenty-four meetings;

c. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Thirty-two meetings of the Commission, 10 inter-sessional meetings of the bureau and consultations with permanent missions, 4 meetings of the consultative group on resource mobilization and 4 meetings of the informal working group on resources and mandates of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;

d. Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Fifty-two meetings (2000);

e. Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Eighty meetings (4 sessions, 20 meetings per session);

f. Plenipotentiary conference (of 4 weeks' duration) for the finalization of the convention. Seventy-six meetings;

g. Subject to a decision by the General Assembly, ad hoc committee for the development of additional protocols to the convention. Thirty meetings (2 sessions, 15 meetings per session);

h. Subject to a decision by the General Assembly, ad hoc committee for the development of other international convention(s). Thirty meetings (2 sessions, 15 meetings per session);

(ii) Parliamentary documentation

a. General Assembly. Reports on activities of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (annual); United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and additional international legal instruments thereto addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea (annual); Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; implementation of the declaration of the Tenth Congress; operational activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (annual);

b. Economic and Social Council. Annual report on the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

c. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Reports on activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (annual); activities of the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network (biennial); strategic management of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (annual); resource mobilization and funding of technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (annual); progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime; economic crime, including international fraud, embezzlement and corruption (annual); Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and its declaration (biennial); United Nations standards and norms (annual); and prison overcrowding (biennial);

d. Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Two reports on the theme "Crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century (2000);

e. Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Six reports and revised drafts of the convention and the additional international legal instruments thereto;

f. Plenipotentiary conference on the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime. One report and final version of the convention and the additional international legal instruments;

g. Official records of the drafting of the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and the additional international legal instruments (*travaux préparatoires*);

h. Implementation guide for the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and the additional international legal instruments;

i. Subject to a decision by the General Assembly, four substantive documents for the meetings of the ad hoc committee for the development of additional protocols to the convention and four substantive documents for the meetings of the ad hoc committee for the development of other international convention(s);

(iii) Other services provided (RB/XB)

Advisory panel of experts on the collection and analysis of data and information on organized crime; an ad hoc expert group for the design of strategies for the prevention and control of economic and financial crime, including early warning mechanisms; and an ad hoc expert group on the contribution of operational activities in crime prevention and criminal justice to development (XB);

(b) *Other substantive activities (RB/XB)*

(i) Issuance of appeals for international assistance; fund-raising. Consolidated appeal of the Secretary-General for operational activities in crime prevention and criminal justice (annual); and fund-raising and special events, with particular emphasis on cooperation with the private sector (annual);

(ii) Promotion of legal instruments

a. Promotion of, advice on and monitoring the status of implementation of selected United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice through recurrent surveys, regular reporting to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and provision of advisory services (annual);

b. Promotion of, advice on and monitoring the use of the United Nations model treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters through recurrent surveys, regular reporting to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and provision of advisory services (annual);

c. Preparation of policy proposals for the promotion of the existing international conventions against terrorism (annual);

d. Promotion of the use of the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, as complemented by the provisions set forth in annex I to General Assembly resolution 53/112 of 9 December 1998;

(iii) Recurrent publication. ODCCP Studies on Drugs and Crime (annual);

(iv) Non-recurrent publications. Revised United Nations compendium of standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (annual);

(v) Special event for the promotion of the signature and ratification of the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and the additional international legal instruments thereto (RB/XB);

(vi) Technical materials for outside users (RB/XB)

a. Further development, maintenance and expansion of the United Nations Criminal Justice Information Network and its databases, including the central repository on organized crime, and dissemination of data and information;

b. Production of technical material on explosives; best practices and strategies in crime prevention; strategies for the prevention and control of economic and financial crime; and victims of crime and abuse of power (XB);

c. Collection and analysis of information and preparation of analytical studies on terrorism, especially on counter-terrorist measures and policy responses, assessment of the threat posed by terrorist groups, national legislation on terrorist crimes and conflict-resolution techniques to end terrorist campaigns;

d. Development and maintenance of a computerized directory of national central authorities responsible for the handling or submission of requests for mutual assistance in criminal matters;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison.* Organization of regular consultation meetings, coordination with and participation in the activities of the Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the interregional, regional and cooperating institutes, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the International Criminal Police Organization, Europol, relevant

intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular through the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council and specialized agencies of the United Nations system; and implementation of joint activities in various regions in cooperation with the regional commissions and relevant regional intergovernmental organizations;

(d) *Technical cooperation (RB/XB)*. Provision of advisory services on legislation or other preparatory measures for the ratification of the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and the additional international legal instruments thereto; provision of support, coordination and backstopping to the advisory services conducted by the interregional advisers on crime prevention and criminal justice under section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation; development, coordination and backstopping of technical assistance activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention; development of training materials on the collection, processing and analysis of data and information on crime prevention and criminal justice and on violence against women; development of training materials on action against terrorist violence and on early warning mechanisms to prevent the escalation of such violence; organization of four regional training workshops on the additional international legal instruments and five training seminars on extradition; development of evaluation guidelines for the operational activities and technical cooperation projects of the Centre for International Crime Prevention; development of measures to strengthen the criminal justice systems of countries emerging from conflict situations; design and implementation of 20 field projects on crime prevention and criminal justice, including on organized crime, corruption, trafficking in human beings and terrorism; organization of three interregional training seminars on mutual assistance in criminal matters; development of training materials for the above training seminars; and provision to Member States, upon request, of advisory services relating to the drafting of legislation concerning mutual assistance in criminal matters and to developing and implementing bilateral or multilateral treaties in that area.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1).